

EMERGENCY

MEASURES

NEWS

The Newsletter of Emergency Measures Ontario

Volume 2, No. 2 Spring 1996

Tornado Season Starts With a Bang!

Record Number of Emergencies Declared in April

BY KATHY KERR

Although Spring was late arriving, severe weather ushered in the season with a vengeance.

Violent tornadoes tore through south-central Ontario northwest of Orangeville during the dinner hour on Saturday, April 20. After the intense winds subsided, the work of assessing the damage and clean up began. Luckily, no human lives were lost and relatively minor physical injuries were reported. Structural damage to homes and barns, however, was significant.

In the days that followed, eight communities declared emergencies. The heads of council for the Townships of Peel, Arthur, West Luther, Holland, Amaranth, East Luther Grand Valley, Mulmur and Mono all made emergency declarations soon after the April 20 incident. In the days following the tornado, Solicitor General Bob Runciman met with local officials and residents to tour the areas impacted by the tornadoes.

Many communities relied on the thousands of volunteers that arrived to assist with clean up efforts. From Mennonite relief committees to neighbours and concerned individu-



Solicitor General the Honourable Bob Runciman (centre) toured the affected communities with local officials in the days following the tornado.

als from the city, volunteers pulled together to assist the stricken areas.

In the midst of clean up efforts — and a mere 11 days after the first string of tornadoes hit the area — Mother Nature struck another blow to residents near Orangeville. Just after 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, another tornado touched down near Mono Township causing damage to a barn and facilities in the municipal yard.

Although the physical evidence of the tornado may be cleared, this experience will be forever etched in

the memories of residents. For some individuals this was not their first

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From the Director's Desk

I'm happy to report that Emergency Measures Ontario has, so far, escaped the worst of the budget cuts, and will be able to continue to offer a full program of emergency planning, exercise and training services for the following year. While not entirely unscathed by budget reductions, EMO has been able to protect its most important activities.

In fact, as you can see elsewhere in this issue, we are starting work in a new area. The search and rescue council that was formed recently offers us the opportunity

to meet new challenges and devise new solutions in the area of search and rescue coordination. I know there will be considerable interest in urban search and rescue activities following the Oklahoma tragedy. Perhaps the most important benefit from SAR will be a closer association with volunteer groups such as CASARA, and the many ground search and rescue organizations in the Sault, Thunder Bay, and other areas of the province.

Finally, Mary Cann and her able instructors have embarked on another busy training year. More courses are being offered throughout the province, and work continues on the development of new ones. With any luck and some assistance from our federal cousins, we hope to break new ground next year by offering computer based instruction and other long distance education services.

Have a safe and productive summer, and remember, plan today for a safer tomorrow.

CANUSLAK '96 Set For September

BY ED UNGER

With the recent addition of a new exercise officer to its staff, Emergency Measures Ontario is now able to participate more fully in a variety of provincial-level exercises. While the emphasis will remain largely on nuclear exercise planning, some time will be available to work on non-nuclear scenarios.

One of these non-nuclear exercises will take place later this year. CANUSLAK '96 is an exercise to test the terms and conditions of the Canada/US Joint Marine Plan for the Great Lakes. The exercise is set to take place in September on the St. Lawrence River; the scenario is based on a simulated grounding of a tanker vessel that causes a large oil spill.

EMO is a member of the CANUSLAK exercise design team, along with the Canadian Coast Guard, the United States Coast Guard and government agency representatives from both countries. Each member of the team has different objectives for the exercise. By following the procedures in the Provincial Emergency Plan, EMO will test its response to ensure the health, safety and property of Ontario citizens.

Three Ontario communities bordering the St. Lawrence — the City of Brockville and the Townships of Augusta and Elizabethtown — are tentatively set to participate in the

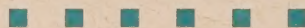
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Your ideas and comments are welcome. Please send them to:

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 Ontario

Survey Says....!

EMO Survey Provides Insight Into Emergency Preparedness in the Province

BY ELAINE SIMPSON

Last June, EMO undertook its sixth Emergency Preparedness Questionnaire. Initiated in 1985, and distributed every two years since, the survey is designed to determine the level of community emergency preparedness in Ontario. The survey also serves to:

- ♦ identify the types of emergencies posing the greatest risks to communities in Ontario, and
- ♦ pinpoint areas where EMO can provide increased assistance by way of training and workshops.

The questionnaire was mailed out to all 817 municipalities in Ontario; 53% were completed and returned. Returns were tabulated and results first published earlier this year.

Interesting Results

As expected, the survey yielded some very interesting results. For instance, communities were asked to identify emergencies which posed the greatest threat to their area. An overwhelming 83% of communities indicated they felt most at risk from a transportation accident involving a spill of dangerous goods. This type of accident is considered the number one threat in all areas of the province. The second worst emergency threats were tornadoes and severe weather, followed by blizzards, major service loss (such as electricity) and mass train derailment.

In the area of "level of prepared-

ness," the survey showed that the number of communities with emergency plans has risen slightly to 75% or 612 municipalities. While this is good news, many plans are out of date and need to be exercised and revised.

The survey showed that 262 municipalities have an evacuation plan or

MUNICIPALITIES WITH EMERGENCY PLANS

1985 — 25%
1987 — 55%
1989 — 62%
1991 — 70%
1993 — 71%
1995 — 75%

procedures to move people out of an emergency area, while 243 municipalities have a plan to care for evacuees. Communities in northwestern Ontario seem to be leading the way in this area, prompted, undoubtedly, by the large number of evacuations staged during forest fire season.

With its larger cities and population base, at 296, southwestern Ontario has the largest number of communities with emergency plans. The region of southeastern Ontario is a close second with 280. Other regions, however, continue to make progress in this area.

More Work

One area the survey highlighted which will need further development, is the need for increased links between community and industry emergency planning and preparedness. In some communities, joint committees exist or are being established, while in others there is a noticeable absence of information. Emergency Measures Ontario will continue to work with communities and industry to promote better cooperation in this area.

Overall, the survey results provided EMO with an excellent tool to help chart its course for the next few years. It also produced information of interest to both communities and the general public, and highlights from the survey will soon be available to them in the form of a background.

(continued from page 2)

exercise. As the simulated oil slick covers their coastline, the communities will simulate a declaration of an emergency. By reporting the emergency declaration to EMO, an information link will be established between the community and the organization responsible for the clean-up of the spill. This process will allow EMO to determine how community needs and expectations can be addressed more quickly in an emergency.

Search & Rescue Council Formed in Ontario

BY GREG TAYLOR

Emergency Measures Ontario has recently been given the responsibility of coordinating search and rescue policy in Ontario. To meet this challenge, EMO has established the Ontario Search and Rescue Advisory Council, or OSARAC.

The council's inaugural meeting, held recently in Toronto, was attended by representatives from the many agencies involved in search and rescue in Ontario.

Representing the the federal government on the council are staff from:

⊗ the joint Canadian Forces and Coast Guard Rescue Coordination

⊗ the headquarters of Land Force Central Area in Toronto,

⊗ Emergency Preparedness Canada, and

⊗ the National Search and Rescue Secretariat.

Provincial agencies involved include:

⊗ the Ontario Provincial Police,

⊗ Office of the Fire Marshal

⊗ Office of the Coroner, and

⊗ Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Services.

The council membership also includes a very important component of the entire search and rescue effort — volunteers. Bringing the

bility of the appropriate response agency. For example, in rural areas, ground search will continue to be handled by the OPP, while water search and rescue efforts will still fall to the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard. The council's role will be to improve search and rescue efforts through increased communication and coordination

amongst all the players.

To kick-off its activities, council members have formed working groups to examine issues such as an overall search and rescue strategy for Ontario, as well as standards and training. The working groups will develop terms of reference and establish work priorities by July 1st,

before beginning

work in their specific areas. The end result of the council's efforts will be the formulation of a comprehensive, coordinated approach to search and rescue in the province.

Additional information on the work of the Ontario Search and Rescue Advisory Council can be obtained by contacting Greg Taylor at Emergency Measures Ontario at (416) 314-8603.



Members of the new Search and Rescue Advisory Council held their inaugural meeting recently in Toronto.

volunteer perspective to the table are representatives from:

⊗ ground search and rescue volunteers,

⊗ St. John Ambulance,

⊗ amateur radio, and

⊗ the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association.

Day-to-day search and rescue operations will remain the responsi-

Project Upgrade

Revision of the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Plan

BY IFTI AHMAD

W

ork on Project Upgrade has continued at a brisk pace and is gathering increasing momentum.

Earlier this year, the core project team hired a consultant through an open bidding process. Proposals were received from seven consulting companies, and after a rigorous evaluation of proposals, the contract was awarded to Intelektra Inc. Work on the first phase of the project commenced in March, 1996.

Project Team

The first draft of the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Plan (Master Plan), containing revised basic concepts and key policies relating to nuclear emergency response, will be

developed by the end of July, 1996. Subsequently, it will be distributed to all stakeholders for their review. Based on these comments, a second draft of the Master Plan will be developed by December, 1996.

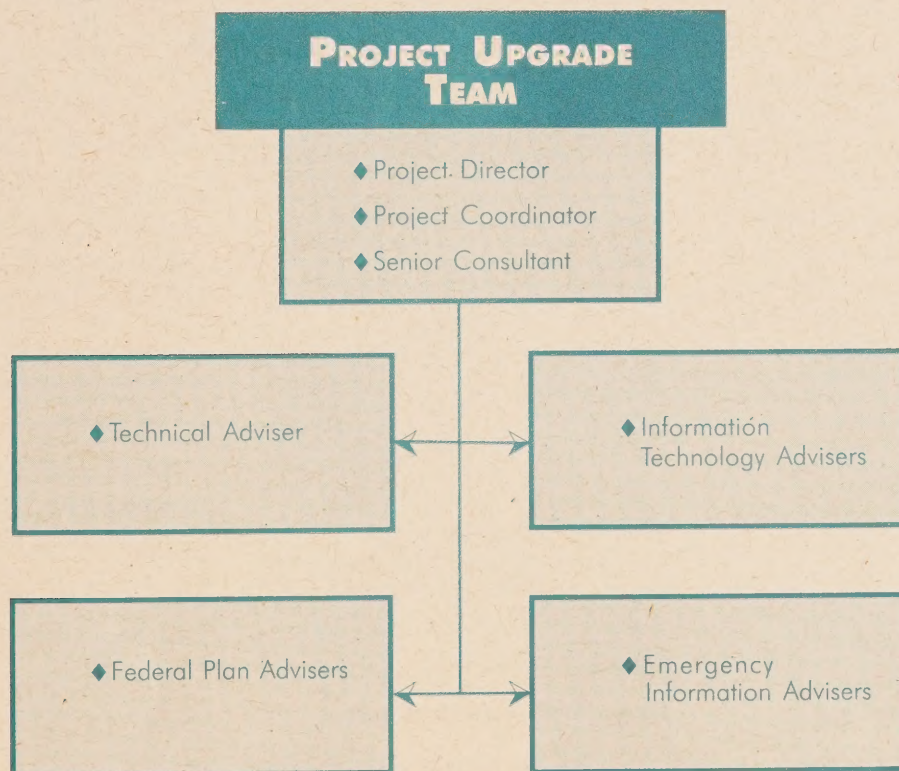
Concurrent with this work, joint planning teams, consisting of staff from the municipalities, provincial ministries and nuclear facility operators, will start the process of developing site-specific plans for the Darlington, Pickering and Bruce nuclear stations. These plans are to be completed by mid-1997.

Stakeholder consultations and consensus building are other components of the project. A process of both formal and informal information exchanges with all major stakeholders (provincial ministries

and agencies, municipal elected officials and emergency preparedness staff, nuclear facility operators, federal agencies, etc.) has been built into each stage of plan revision work. This has fostered a spirit of cooperation and understanding between the various jurisdictions, an essential requirement for the timely and successful completion of the project.

Testing the Result

An important feature of Project Upgrade is that once provincial and municipal plans are revised, they will be validated by independent evaluators during the CANATEX III exercise. The exercise, a three-day, full-scale event scheduled for April, 1998, will be based on an incident at the Darlington nuclear station.



JEPP Program Continues to Help Fund EP in Ontario

BY MAUREEN GRIFFITHS

The federal JEPP program continues to assist communities and organizations deliver emergency planning and preparedness throughout Ontario. The list of approved projects for 96/97 has recently been finalized, and letters notifying communities about their applications are in the process of being sent out.

97/98 Guidelines

The 1997/98 JEPP Guidelines will be distributed to all communities soon. The deadline for submitting applications for next year has been moved up a few months to September 1, 1996.

The federal share of this cost sharing federal program remains at a maximum of 45 per cent, with communities/organizations covering the remaining 55 per cent. Funding limits apply to all project categories, and communities receive reimbursement after the project has been completed and a detailed claim submitted.

There are some changes to 1997/98 JEPP application conditions. For instance, criteria for JEPP projects involving salary will change significantly. Funding for salaries will only be considered if the salary is incremental, for example hiring a consultant or new employee.

Project proposals involving the

development and testing of community emergency plans will be given a higher priority. Other items will be considered if funds are available, for example, equipment for emergency operations centres or telecommunications equipment/systems. However, it should be

exercises,

- ☒ emergency operations centres, and
- ☒ telecommunications equipment.

Projects of particular interest, include federal funding in support of EMO's provincial training program, which provides courses and workshops to community officials, including First Nations. JEPP support has also furthered the efforts of EMO's public education program, which produces brochures, guidebooks and displays to promote emergency preparedness within government, the private sector and the

general public. JEPP funding was also instrumental in getting the new provincial operations centre, located at EMO, up and running.

For more information on the JEPP program, please contact the EMO office nearest you:

Toronto: (416) 314-3723

Kingston: (613) 545-4590

Sudbury: (705) 675-4474

Thunder Bay: (807) 473-3191

London: (519) 679-7055

**THE 1997/98 JEPP
GUIDELINES WILL BE
MAILED SOON.
APPLICATION DEADLINE
HAS BEEN MOVED UP A
FEW MONTHS TO
SEPTEMBER 1, 1996**

noted that some restrictions do apply.

JEPP in Ontario

The Province of Ontario gratefully acknowledges the federal government's 1996/97 JEPP contribution. JEPP funding totaling nearly \$1.5 million for approximately 110 community and provincial projects have been approved for this year; another \$1.8 million for these projects was covered by the province and communities.

These JEPP projects include:

- ☒ the development of plans and

Line Load Control Survey

Nearly 40 years ago, the Canadian government, together with telephone companies across the country, developed the Line Load Control (LLC) program. The intent of the program was to identify telephone lines which are essential during emergencies, and to assign them priority for outgoing service and restoration when the system is temporarily overloaded.

Over the years there have been significant changes in technology. Telephone companies can now better accommodate surge

demands on the system. At the same time, essential users are identifying a greater number of lines requiring protection. But, as the program has grown, so too has the administrative requirement to manage the listings effectively.

A wide variety of options for streamlining the program have been examined. One such option would allow clients to update listings directly onto computer disks or via the Internet. This information would then be immediately processed by Industry Canada and local telephone companies. This way, clients can amend their listings on an "as needed" basis.

In order to determine if this option is feasible, it is necessary to ascertain how "computer friendly" Ontario's line load control clients are. Emergency Measures Ontario and

Industry Canada have developed a survey which explores how LLC

clients would like the program to be administered. The results of this survey will help guide the direction of changes made to the program.

This survey was distributed in mid-April to all previous line load control clients. The deadline for the return of surveys is June 14, 1996.

For further information please contact, Kathy Kerr, Operations Officer at (416) 314-8595.



(continued from page 1)

exposure to tornadoes; many local residents re-live the terror of the devastating tornadoes that hit the area in May, 1985 every time dark clouds fill the sky. To assist residents emotionally affected by the tornadoes, critical incident stress debriefings and counselling sessions were made available.

As the clean up continues, so too does the planning and preparation for the swirling winds that will visit the area again some day. Unfortunately, the history of south central Ontario clearly demonstrates the pattern of tornadoes and the necessity of being prepared when the next one hits.



Though no human lives were lost, structural damage to homes and barns was significant.

The Back Page

Upcoming EMO Training Courses

Emergency Planning and Response

Provides the basic knowledge required to prepare emergency plans and respond to emergencies.

1996

Sept 10 - 12 Bracebridge

Sept 25 - 27 Ottawa

Oct 22 - 24 Kapuskasing

Nov 5 - 7 Windsor

Nov 26 - 28 Brockville

1997

Jan 21 - 23 Toronto

Feb 11 - 13 Thunder Bay

Feb 18 - 20 Burlington

Mar 4 - 6 Cobourg

Mar 18 - 20 Simcoe

Exercise Design Course

Provides instruction on planning and conducting a community emergency exercise.

1996

Nov 19 - 21 Cornwall

1997

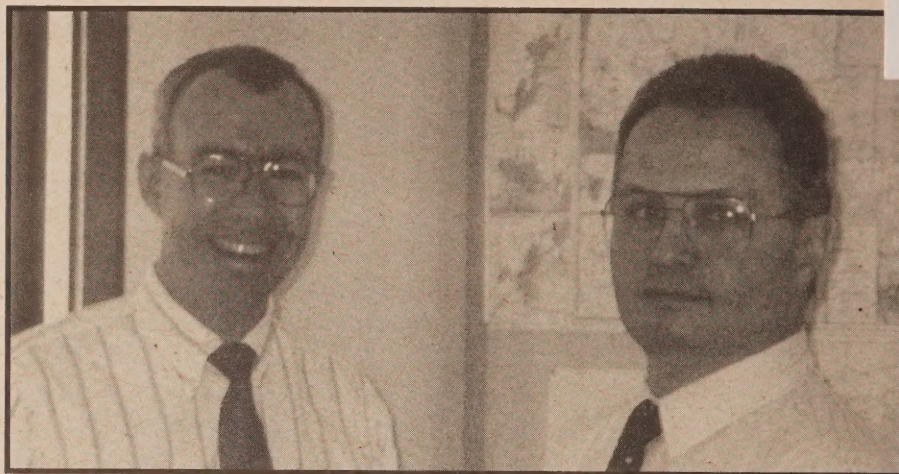
Feb 4 - 6 Toronto

Emergency Public Information

Provides training for individuals designated to act as spokespersons during an actual emergency.

Oct 29 - 31 Kingston

For more information on any of these courses, please contact EMO at (416) 314-3723 or by faxing (416) 314-3758.



Ed Unger (left) and Greg Taylor

New Faces at EMO

Two staff have joined EMO's provincial section in recent months in newly created positions.

Greg Taylor is the new federal programs officer. Greg's work involves liaising with the federal government on a number of programs, including the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP). He's also the secretary of the new Ontario Search and Rescue Advisory Council (see story on page 4).

Ed Unger joins EMO as the new

exercise officer. Ed will coordinate EMO's participation in a number of upcoming exercises, notably the CANUSLAK exercise (see story page 2) and the CANATEX 3 exercise slated for April 1998.

Ed and Greg spent many years working with the Canadian military which benefits them well in their new positions. Both have already made a significant impact in their respective areas and on EMO's efforts to enhance emergency planning and preparedness in the province.

Test Your Weather Trivia Knowledge!

What weather phenomenon kills more people in the developed world than any other natural phenomenon?

- a) lightning
- b) drought
- c) hurricanes
- d) tornadoes
- e) floods

(a) lightning

Source: The 1996 Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar



The wind speed produced by the average sneeze is:

- a) 5 km/h—light air
- b) 16 km/h—gentle breeze
- c) 63 km/h—gale force
- d) 120 km/h—hurricane force
- e) 200 km/h—tornado force

(e) 200 km/h — tornado force!